

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to the specification for certain informalities. In response, the specification has been amended to remove the informalities noted by the Examiner. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to the specification is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 14-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite due to lack of antecedent basis for being dependent from claim 13 which had been cancelled. In response, claims 14-16 have been amended to depend from claim 11. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection to claims 14-16 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 17-19 are allowed. Applicant gratefully acknowledges the indication that claims 17-19 are allowed.

In the Office Action, claims 1-3, 7-12, 14-16 and 20-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S.

Patent Publication 2002/0172395 (Foote) and U.S. Patent 6,490,353 (Tan) .

By means of the present amendment, independent claims 1 and 11 have been amended to include features similar to the allowed claim 17. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1 and 11 are in allowable form, and allowance thereof is respectfully requested. In addition, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2-3, 7-12 and 14-16 should also be allowed at least based on their dependence from independent claims 1 and 11.

Foote discloses a system that applies a watermark by extending the original data along a given dimension and embedding information into the data file by selectively dimensionally compressing or expending data portions. Tan is directed to creating a sub-key (from a master key) for each data block, where each data block is encrypted using its sub-key.

It is respectfully submitted that Foote and Tan do not teach or suggest that "the different sizes of the information items facilitate a verification of the watermarked content material" as recited in independent claim 20. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 20 be allowed. In addition, it is

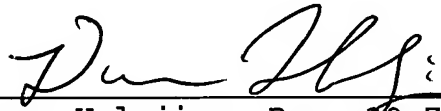
respectfully submitted that claims 21-27 should also be allowed at least based on their dependence from independent claim 20.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

If any informalities remain, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned in order to expedite allowance.

Please charge any fee deficiencies and credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 14-1270.

Respectfully submitted,

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June 23, 2005

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